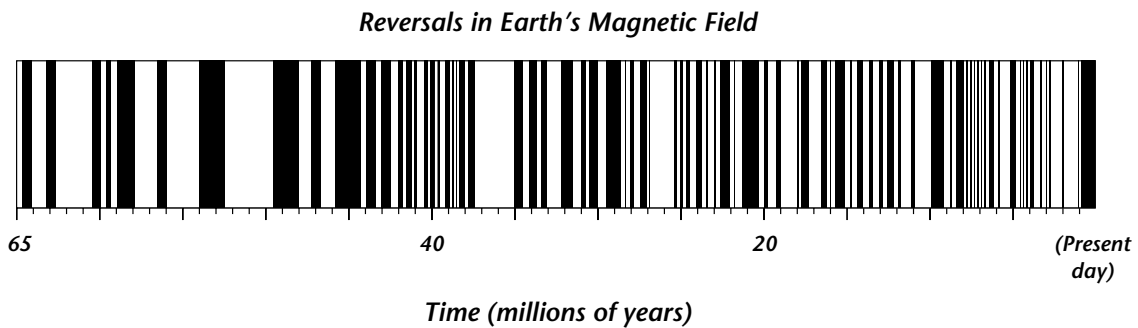


**Plate Tectonics** ▪ *Enrich*

## Magnetic Reversals Through the Ages

How often does Earth's magnetic field reverse itself? The graph below shows the record geologists have put together for the last 65 million years. As you might know, the last of the dinosaurs died about 65 million years ago. So you can think of this graph as the record of Earth's reversals since the dinosaurs became extinct.

In this graph, each dark band represents a "normal" magnetic field, as it is today. Each light band represents a reversed magnetic field. Use the graph to answer the questions that follow.



*Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.*

1. Was Earth's magnetic field "normal" or reversed 65 million years ago?
2. About how long ago was the last time Earth's magnetic field reversed?
3. Can you see any pattern in how often Earth's magnetic field reverses?  
Give reasons for your answer.
4. How would this history of reversals show itself on the ocean floor?
5. From this graph, when would you predict the next reversal would occur?  
Give reasons for your answer.